



February 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the state of Connecticut, a parent with school-aged children and also a professor of sociology at Western Connecticut State University, specializing in Immigration.

I am writing in full support of SB 398, which would open financial aid to more, and I should hope all, people who have qualified for DACA. My support of SB 398 stems from several things:

First, I support SB 398 because it makes absolutely no sense to include a group of people in DACA, but to then turn around and cut them off just when they attempt to participate in society. To do so is to marginalize this group of people.

Second, and relatedly, opening up financial aid to all students with DACA merely gives them access to the aid into which they and their family members have and will continue to pay into.

Third, my support foments from a basic knowledge of the social costs of placing educational limitations on young people. Far be it from the people of the State of Connecticut to deny anyone, especially those to whom we've granted Deferred Action, educational opportunities. Denying financial aid effectively denies educational opportunities. Sociologically speaking, there is a high correlation between those young people excluded from such educational opportunities and various social ailments we wish to avoid among young people with no hope for their future (suicide, teen pregnancy, crime, and, at a minimum a life of servitude). To send young people in the state of Connecticut the message that we do not support them is not only the wrong message, it is the wrong policy. Such a policy institutionalizes their inequality for not just their lifetime but for generations to come.

Furthermore, despite stereotypes to the contrary, anyone who has qualified for DACA not only has contributed to our community willfully and effectively, but shows promise as a dutiful and ambitious member of our State – for a young person, seeking an education is a sheer sign of hope and promise not just for themselves, but

for us as a community seeking active members who will contribute to our larger well-being.

Sincerely,

Carina A. Bandhauer, PhD
Professor of Sociology
Department of Social Sciences
Western Connecticut State University
181 White ST
Danbury CT 06810

Phone: (203) 837-8650
Cell: (860) 733-5064
Email: bandhauerc@wcsu.edu